DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 395 334 CS 215 336

AUTHOR Donoghue, Mildred R.
TITLE Annotated Bibliography of 100 Quality Books of Multicultural Literature for Children in Grades K-6 (1990-1996).
PUB DATE 96
NOTE 23p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; *Childrens Literature; Elementary Education; Fantasy; *Fiction; *Multicultural Education; *Nonfiction; Picture Books; Poetry
IDENTIFIERS Folktales; Historical Fiction; Multicultural Materials; *Trade Books

ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography of contemporary multicultural books for children is divided into sections on: (1) non-fiction, biography (12 citations); (2) non-fiction, information (18 citations); (3) contemporary realistic fiction (14 citations); (4) folklore (11 citations); (5) historical fiction (11 citations); (6) modern fantasy (10 citations); (7) picture books (12 citations); and (8) poetry (12 citations). (NKA)

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF 100 QUALITY BOOKS OF MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES K-6 (1990-1996)

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Non-Fiction, Biography

Adler, David. A Picture Book of Jesse Owens. Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Holiday House, 1992.

Owens was the hero of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and proved that Hitler was wrong in labeling black people as inferior. Owens was the son of sharecroppers, and grew up to be a track star. There are watercolor illustrations; there are also the author's notes and chronology to provide additional data.

Bruchac, Joseph. A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull. Illustrated by Rocco Baviera. Philomel/Putnam, 1995.

Born a Lakota Sioux, the great warrier first earned a childhood name of Slow due to his careful and deliberate way of doing everything. At fourteen, due to his courage in battle, his father gives him another name: Sitting Bull. The story demonstrates the importance of community and family among the Lakota people, and stresses that success comes through hard work and determination.

Cooper, Floyd. Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes. Illustrated by author. Philomel/Putnam, 1994.

A brief portrait of Hughes' s life, emphasizing his loneliness as a child and his development as a poet. Having lived in many places, Hughes finally found a home in Harlem where he became a prominent writer of the Harlem Renaissance. The text and art combine to create a fine introduction to the writer's life.

Hart, Philip S. Flying Free: America's First Black Aviators. Lerner, 1992.

This is the story of the pioneer African American pilots who had to overcome racism and discrimination in addition to the dangers of flying airplanes, during the 1920s and 1930s. It profiles four men from the Chicago flyers and the Tuskegee Airmen. A very short final chapter describes the current status of African American pilots.

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Ringgold, Faith. My Dream of Martin Luther King. Illustrated by author. Crown, 1995.

A personal picture-book biography of King in which the book's narrator falls asleep while watching a television program about Dr.King and dreams about his life. The civil rights leader's nonviolent efforts to end segregation come through clearly. A brief chronologyappears at the book's conclusion.

Ritter, Lawrence S. Leagues Apart: The Men and Times of the Negro Baseball Leagues. Illustrated by Richard Merkin. Morrow, 1995.

Short biographies of 22 baseball players of color, interwoven with information about segregation in the 1920s through the 1940s when Jackie Robinson became the first African-American player in the major leagues.

Sabin, Louis. Roberto Clemente: Young Baseball Hero. Illustrated by Marie DeJohn. Troll Associates, 1992.

The childhood and upbringing of legendary baseball player Roberto Clemente of Puerto Rico. The book includes details about the island and the culture.

Say, Allen. El Chino. Illustrated by author. Houghton, 1990.

Although trained as an engineer, Billy Wong becomes fascinated by bullfighting, and against all odds becomes one of Spain's most famous matadors, "El Chino". Say's vivid watercolors capture the style of this Chinese-American bullfighter.

Senna, Carl. Colin Powell: A Man of War and Peace. Walker, 1992.

The first African-American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff grew up in Harlem, the son of hard-working Jamaican immigrants. Beginning with college ROTC, he overcame many obstacles to become one of the most highly respected man in the nation. Source notes and a bibliography verify the author's data.

Stanley, Fay. The Last Princess. Illustrated by Diane Stanley. Four Winds Press, 1991.

This is the biography of Princess Ka'iulani, the last princess of the Hawaiian Islands, who never ruled because the the Islands were annexed by the United States in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The illustrations portray the lush surroundings as well as the somber actions that occurred.

Uchida, Yoshiko. The Invisible Thread. Messner, 1991.

This autobiography of a Japanese-American during the 1930s and 1940s describes the horrors of a relocation camp after the Pearl Harbor bombing. Emphasized also are the strengths of the Nisei(or Japanese-Americans born in the United States) during the ordeal. Uchida grew up in Berkeley, California.

Yep, Laurence. The Last Garden. Messner, 1991.

Through Yep's autobiography, the reader learns the facts of this award-winning author's life as well as the problems facing an ethnic American living in two worlds. A photo insert is included.

Non-Fiction, Information

Ancona, George. Fiesta U. S. A. Photographed by author. Lodestar/ Penguin, 1995.

The book focuses on holidays observed by Latinos in the United States from California to New York. It is available in both English and Spanish, and all photographs are in full-color.

Ancona, George. The Pinata Maker/ El Pinatero. Photographed by author. Harcourt,1994.

Set in Mexico, the text and photos follow the steps needed to make pinatas. Ancona tells the story in both English and Spanish with both languages on every page. His bright, full-color photographs complement the detailed text, giving the reader an authentic account of one aspect of Mexican culture which is especially appealing to children.

Ancona, George. Powwow. Photographs by author. Harcourt, 1993.

The largest powwow held every year in the United States takes place on the Crow Reservation in Montana where Native American tribes gather to celebrate their traditional culture. The color photographs are striking and help indicate the significance of various aspects of the event.

Cox, Clinton. Undying Glory: The Story of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. Scholastic, 1991.

The young men of the all-African-American 54th Regiment from Massachusetts were among the bravest soldiers in the Civil War. They faced racial discrimination--and lower wages than the white soldiers--but remained steadfast, impressing even their opponents. Cox uses photographs and primary source references to document the story, which was the basis of a film made in the 1990s.

Dorros, Arthur. Tonight Is Carnaval. Illustrated by author. Dutton, 1991.

The book describes a South American culture in the Andes Mountains. There, people look forward to three days of annual celebration known as Carnaval, as their daily life is hard. The illustrations are native three-dimensional sticheries known arpilleras.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. Cherokee Summer. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1993.

Through the voice of a ten-year-old Cherokee girl living in Oklahoma, the reader gains information of the language, customs, traditions, and legends of the Cherokee Nation. There are color photos and maps together with a glossary.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. Pueblo Storyteller. Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1991.

A ten-year-old storyteller named April describes the life of her extended family. There are modern activities combined with traditional culture, all illustrated clearly in the photos. There is also a glossary and index.

Keegan, Marcia. Pueblo Boy: Growing Up in Two Worlds. Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1991.

A ten-year-old Pueblo boy and his family are shown in their everyday life, combining the modern and the ancient ways. Emphasized is the organization of Timmy's pueblo. The color photographs provide the reader with an overview of Pueblo life today.

Kendall, Russ. Russian Girl: Life in an Old Russian Town. Scholastic,1994.

This book shows the life of ordinary Russians today with the end of the Cold War. The author spent three months in Suzdal, Russia living with the family presented here. The color photos focus especially on nine-year-old Olga.

Kroll, Virginia. Masai and I. Illustrations by Nancy Carpenter. FourWinds Press, 1992.

Linda learns in school one day about the proud, tall people of East Africa called the Masai, and senses a kinship to them. She contrasts her life in an American city with comparable scenes in Africa. Carpenter's oil and colored pencil paintings help contrast the two worlds.

McKissack, Patricia & McKissack, Fredrick. Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters. Illustrated by John Thompson. Scholastic, 1994.

This is a description of a traditional Christmas on a Virginia plantation in 1859, from the perspectives of both the slaveholder and his household in the "Big House" and the slaves in the "Quarters". It is the "last Yuletide celebration before the Southern Rebellion". Under the gaiety are the many fears and hopes by all concerned. A well-researched history.

McMahon, Patricia. Chi-Hoon: A Korean Girl. Photographs by Michael O'Brien. Boyd's Mills Press, 1993.

McMahon and O'Brien describe the city of Seoul by focusing on one week in the life of an eight-year-old Korean girl. Both have lived there for years and are familiar with the ancient and modern aspects of the capital city.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Seven Candles for Kawanzaa. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Dial/Penguin, 1993.

From December 26 to January 1, some African-Americans celebrate Kwanzaa, a harvest festival originated in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. The family's daily ritual is to light each candle in the kinara to celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The week ends with a joyous harvest dinner. Each page is framed with motifs of African designs.

Sneeve, Virginia Driving Hawk. The Cherokees. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Holiday, 1996.

A sound treatment of the Cherokee people with their tragic history, accomplishments, and culture. Their mandated removal from Georgia is described, and all information is delivered without editorial comment. An entry in the "First Americans" series.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. The Sioux. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Holiday House, 1993.

This short informational text explains how the Sioux Indians got their name and describes their life and customs, including the Lakota Pipe Ceremony. A map shows the territories of these Plains tribes.

Stanley, Jerry. I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment. Crown/Random, 1994.

The plight of the Japanese living in America during World War II is examined, especially as it affected one young man, Shiro Nomura, and his family and close friends. Emphasized are details of an event later termed "one of the worst violations of civil liberties in American history" by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Steltzer, Ulti. Building an Igloo. Photographed by author. Holt, 1995.

Two members of the Inuit tribe build an igloo to use as a shelter on a hunting trip, in this handsome photo essay. Also provided is brief background information about the tribe's lifestyle and the Arctic region. The text is concise.

Wolf, Bernard. Beneath the Store: A Mexican Zapotec Tale. Orchard Books, 1994.

Near Oaxaca City, Mexico live six-year old Leo and his family who are weavers The reader learns about the holidays, customs, village life, market day, and family responsibilities in this 3,500-year-old town. Included is a brief history of the Zapotecs together with a map and pronunciation guide.

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Alpin, Elaine M. A Bear for Miguel. Illustrated by Joan Sandin. Harper Collins, 1996.

The details of life in war-torn El Salvador in the 1980s are grim but do not overwhelm this compassionate story of Maria who must trade her stuffed bear, Paco, for food to feed the family. Sandin's watercolors give additional information about the setting and culture.

Fenner, Carol. Yolanda's Genius. McElderry/Simon, 1995.

Yolanda, a top African American student in the fifth grade, has a younger brother Andrew who rarely talks but communicates mostly through his harmonica. When the family moves to the suburbs to escape their dangerous Chicago neighborhood, Yolanda gradually realizes that it is Andrew who is the true genius in the family. So she plots to have Andrew play onstage during a blues festival in the city and his remarkable musical talent is proven.

Girion, Barbara. Indian Summer. Scholastic, 1990.

Sarah Birdsong and Joni McCord must share Sarah's bedroom when Joni's father becomes summer resident physician on the Iroquois reservation. Both girls are resentful and distrustful of each other at first but slowly become friends by the time of the annual powwow.

Howard, Elizabeth. Aunt Flossie's Hats(and Crab Cakes Later). Paintings by James Ransome. Clarion, 1991.

Family stories are an important tradition and this African-American family values its past. So Sarah and Susan visit their great-great aunt each Sunday and listen to her stories revolving around her huge hat collection. Each visit ends with the whole family enjoying crab cakes for dinner. Ransome's oil paintings are elegant.

Hurwitz, Johanna. Class President. Illustrations by Sheila Hamanaka. Scholastic, 1991.

When school opens in the fall, Julio Sanchez discovers that the new fifth-grade teacher is a man, Ernesto Flores. Julio's first lesson is to take pride in his Puerto Rican name and heritage. He also learns about leadership, friendship--and how to make brownies. These lessons are different from the school subjects he was prepared to study. The story details the familiar trials and joys of school life.

Johnson, Angela. Do Like Kyla. Illustrated by James Ransome. Orchard Books/Richard Jackson Books, 1990.

Kyla is the leader for her younger sister who imitates her all day long. Then one day the roles shift and Kyla becomes the follower. Full page paintings boldly depict two African-American sisters in everyday life.

Mead, Alice. Junebug. Farrar, 1995.

An African-American boy living in a housing project is afraid that on his 10th birthday he will be forced to join a gang by the older boys. Confronted with the possibility that his mother will soon move the family out of the project, Junebug is also apprehensive about leaving the world of drugs, fights, and fears with which he is so familiar. The novel is still a hopeful one despite the grim realities.

Namioka, Lensey. Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear. Illustrated by Kees de Kefte. Little, Brown/Joy Street, 1992.

The Yangs have recently moved to Seattle from China. They are a musically talented family except for Yingtao whose abilities lie in baseball and not in violin playing. So he and his friend devise a scheme to prove that he should quit the violin. First-person story humorously told.

Polacco, Patricia. Chicken Sunday. Illustrated by author. Philomel,1992.

Three African-American children want to buy an Easter hat for Miss Eula to wear when she sings in the choir. So they make Ukrainian eggs to sell in Mr. Kodinski's hat shop to raise the money. Race and culture are never overtly mentioned but the details in the backgrounds of the folk-art style illustrations exude warmth and understanding.

Pomerantz, Charlotte. The Outside Dog. Illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. HarperCollins, 1993.

Marisol wants a dog but her grandfather(with whom she lives) won't allow it. She finds a stray mutt that her grandfather gradually accepts while insisting that Pancho sleep outside. However, Pancho gains full status after alerting the family about a fire which threatens their small house. There are watercolor-and-ink illustrations which further promote an introduction to this Puerto Rico village community.

Soto, Gary. Pacific Crossing. Harcourt, 1992.

Lincoln Mendoza and his barrio brother Tony participate in a six-week student exchange program with host families in Japan. Mexican-American Lincoln becomes a "son" to Mr. and Mrs. Ono and a brother to Mitsuo, learning about Japanese culture while working on their farm and studying certain Japanese martial arts. The book includes a glossary of Japanese and Spanish phrases.

Stolz, Mary. Go Fish. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. HarperCollins, 1991.

One day in the life of an African-American family which consists of Grandfather, grandson Thomas, and their cat, Ringo. They live near the Gulf of Mexico and enjoy fishing, cooking, reading, and storytelling. A chapter book for young readers.

Williams, Sherley. Working Cotton. Illustrated by Carole Byard. Harcourt, 1992.

Shelan's family and other workers arrive at the cotton fields of central California before daybreak, pick cotton all day, and leave at sunset. The dramatic illustrations and poetic text show how these African American migrant workers maintain their dignity despite hard labor.

Yep, Lawrence. Later, Gator. Hyperion/1995.

A family story set in San Francisco's Chinatown. Eight-year-old Bobby receives an alligator as a birthday gift from his older brother. Though Oscar the alligator lives only a short time, the experiences the family shares because of Oscar create a fast-paced novel. The portrayal of the culture is plausible and likeable.

Folklore

Bruchac, Joseph, Reteller. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story. Illustrated by Susan Roth. Dell/Penguin, 1994

Long ago, the Birds and Animals were feuding about which group of creatures was superior to the other but instead of going to war, they decided that a game of stickball would determine the winner. Since the Birds lost the game, their penalty was for them to leave for half of each year; thus, explaining the migration process. Roth uses cut- and torn-paper collages to enhance the story.

Brusca, Maria C. & Wilson, T. Pedro Fools the Gringo and Other Tales of a Latin American Trickster. Illustrated by Maria C. Brusca. Holt, 1995

Pedro Urdemales is a trickster who appears in numerous tales throughout Latin America. In this humorous, lively collection the authors retell twelve of these stories, most of which are only two or three pages long. The line drawings are black and white.

Gonzalez, Lucia. The Bossy Gallito: A Traditional Cuban Folk Tale. Illustrated by Lulu Delacre. Scholastic, 1994.

The traditional tale of a dandy rooster who sets off for a wedding and gets his beak dirty on the way. Various characters refuse to help him until the friendly sun does so because the rooster has always greeted the sun with a song. The illustrations set the tale in Miami's Little Havana and are mostly ovals framed with white. .

Johnston, Tony. The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote. Illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Putnam, 1994.

This trickster tale is a blend of several from the folklore of Oaxaca, Mexico. Brer Rabbit and Coyote are two antagonists who leap happily from adventure to adventure . The art style is unlike much of dePaola's work but suits the text well. The tale is a humorous read-aloud. .

Joseph, Lynn. The Mermaid's Twin Sister: More Stories from Trinidad. Illustrated by Donna Perrone. Clarion/Houghton, 1994.

Six spellbinding stories from Trinidad as told by the narrator's grandaunt. These are traditional, spooky, funny, or scary tales but all are authentic and told with flair. .

Lester, Julius. John Henry. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dell/Penguin, 1994.

This is the original legend of John Henry and how he beat the steam drill with his sledgehammer but died in the effort. The details are numerous and the illustrations bold.

Martin, Rafe. The Boy Who Lived with the Seals. Illustrated by David Shannon. Putnam, 1993.

A tale of the Chinook people of the Northwest coast. During the spring migration march, a boy is separated from the tribe. Years later, he is discovered with the seals and brought back into tribal life. However, he eventually makes the difficult choice of returning to the seals. .

McDermott, Gerald. Raven. Illustrated by author. Harcourt, 1993.

The well-known Pacific Northwest Indian trickster tale relates how Raven brought light to the world. It invites the listener/reader to participate through a series of repetitions and questions. The illustrations are bold and dramatic.

McDermott, Gerald. Zomo the Rabbit. Illustrated by author. Harcourt, 1992.

Zomo is a funny African trickster rabbit who seeks wisdom so he performs the three tasks decreed by the Sun God. The double page spreads with art and text invite reading-aloud.

Ross, Gayle. How Rabbit Tricked Otter and Other Cherokee Trickster Stories. Illustrated by Mury Jacob. HarperCollins,1994.

Fifteen tales about the irrepressible trickster Rabbit that tell how Rabbit got the better of Otter, Fox, and Deer. These are also pourquoi tales explaining animal characteristics. The full-page illustrations are detailed and resemble tapestries, with elaborate borders. .

Vuong, Lynette Dyer. Sky Legends of Vietnam. Illustrated by Vo-Dinh Mai. HarperCollins,1993.

Six Vietnamese folktales explore the relationship between humans and legendary heavenly beings and explain celestial phenomena. Well-written stories are accompanied by black-and- white illustrations. There is a pronunciation guide and general notes on the tales' origins. .

Historical Fiction

Curtis, Christopher P. The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963. Delacorte, 1995.

An African-American family living in Flint, Michigan decides during the summer of 1963 to drive to Birmingham, Alabama to visit a grandparent. There the ten-year-old and his older brother have their first encounters with the realities of racism, culminating with the bombing of the Sixteenth Avenue Baptist Church where four little girls are killed.

Haugaard, Erik. The Boy and the Samurai. Houghton, 1991.

In sixteenth-century Japan, Saru is orphaned suddenly and survives only by observing the world around him. His survival skills help him rescue a samurai's imprisoned wife.

Kidd, Diana. Onion Tears. Illustrated by Lucy Montgomery. Orchard, 1991.

Nam-Huong can cry onion tears while helping in Auntie's restaurant but not real tears for the family she has lost in her escape from Vietnam. The book alternates between the dialogue of the present and the letters the heroine writes about the horrors she has faced in the past.

Orlev, Uri. The Man from the Other Side. Houghton, 1991.

In the Warsaw ghetto during World War II a young boy works with his stepfather to bring supplies through the sewers to the embattled Jews--but only for the money. The essence of the story is in the family interactions conveyed through authentic dialogue.

Roop, Peter & Roop, Connie. Ahyoka and the Talking Leaves. Illustrated by Yoshi Miyake. Lothrop, Lee, 1992.

Sequoyah and his daughter, Ahyoka, are the only individuals known to have created a written language. This account of the Cherokee visionaries describes their hardships but also makes clear their commitment to the project and the enormity of their accomplishments.

Stroud, Virginia. Doesn't Fall Off His Horse. Illustrated by author. Dial, 1994.

Story of the Oklahoma Territory of the 1890s and the life of a Kiowa boy who once participated in a daring raid on a enemy tribe. Stroud's painting and prints have been shown in museums throughout the Southwest; and she herself has been adopted(in the Indian sense of the word) into a Kiowa family.

Taylor, Mildred. Mississippi Bridge. Illustrated by Max Ginsburg. Dial,1990.

One rainy day in the 1930s in rural Mississippi, the driver of the weekly bus makes the black passengers get off the bus in order to make room for some white passengers. This proves to be a fateful decision, according to the white boy who relates the events during a time of blatant racism.

Taylor, Mildred. The Well: David's Story. Dial/Penguin,1995.

A novella set in the early days of the 20th century. A severe drought threatens the Mississippi community where the black Logan family are substantial landowners with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of water. Repercussions occur with the ultimate retaliation being the fouling of the precious well. The narrator is David Logan, an acknowledged member of the author's family history. .

Uchida, Yoshiko. The Bracelet. Illustrated by Joanna Yardley. Philomel, 1993.

A poignant story of a young Japanese-American girl forced to live in an internment camp in California in 1942. As Emi prepares to leave her home, her best friend(a Caucasian) gives her a bracelet, a gold chain with a heart for remembrance. Though Emi later loses the bracelet, she never forgets Laurie and their friendship.

Yep, Laurence. The Star Fisher. Morrow, 1991.

Yep's grandparents ran a laundry in Clarksville, West Virginia in 1927, which is the basis for this book of fiction told from the viewpoint of a fifteen-year-old girl. The family has to adjust to living in a town where some residents wish them to leave. There is prejudice but also family strength shown throughout the story.

Young, Ronder. Learning by Heart. Houghton,1993.
Set in the South in the 1960s, this affirmative story describes the friendship between Isabella, a young black housekeeper, and Rachel, the daughter of the white family that has moved into a new home. When the family store burns down, and her parents can no longer afford a housekeeper, Rachel is heartbroken at the loss of her companion. She also becomes aware of the subtle racism that underlies the surface of this quiet, small town life.

Modern Fantasy

Allison, Diane. This is the Key to the Kingdom. Illustrated by author. Little, Brown, 1992.

A young African-American child leaves a bleak urban setting behind as she journeys through a fantasy kingdom filled with love and beauty. The illustrations are full-page watercolors.

Clifton, Lucille. Three Wishes. Illustrated by Michael Hays. Doubleday, 1992.

On New Year's Day, an African-American girl named Zenobia finds a penny with her birth year on it. This means that she can make three wishes and each will come true. By sunset, Zenobia has learned what is really important.

dePaola, Tomie. Bonjour, Mr. Satie. Illustrated by author. Putnam, 1991.

A sophisticated cat, Mr. Satie, must judge an exhibit of the paintings of Pablo(Picasso) and Henri(Matisse), in a Paris salon. The two artists have been feuding but Mr. Satie is a successful diplomat.

Dorros, Arthur. Abuela. Illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Dutton, 1991.

Rosalba spends a day in the city with her grandmother. When a flock of birds provokes her imagination, she and her Abuela, take a fanciful flight over New York City to see the sights. The collage artwork supports the story well.

Gill, Shelley. North Country Christmas. Illustrated by Shannon Cartwright. Paws IV, 1992.

Left alone in their Alaskan bush cabin on Christmas Eve, Ellie and Sam are visited by an Alaska Native man named Nick. He needs their help in delivering Christmas gifts by dogsled to a nearby village. At the end of the story, the children wonder if their aunt will believe what happened.

James, Betsy. The Dream Stair. Illustrated by Richard Watson. Harper, 1990.

A young Hispanic child at bedtime gets a candle from her grandmother to keep her safe. As she dreams, Granny's candle leads her up the dream stairs. In the morning, Granny is there to hear about the adventure.

McKissack, Patricia. A Million Fish...More or Less. Illustrated by Dena Schutzer. Alfred Knopf/Borzoi, 1992.

After listening to two family friends trade tall tales of strange happenings around the bayou, Hugh Thomas gets involved in his own strange activity while he catches a million fish...more or less. Schutzer's bold acrylic illustrations support the tale of an African-American boy in the Deep South.

Ringgold, Faith. Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky. Illustrated by author. Crown, 1992.

In this sequel to Tar Bear, Cassie and her brother Be Be fly up to the sky from Harlem where they meet the Underground Railroad train and its conductor, Aunt Harriet Tubman. While Be Be rides on the train, Aunt Harriet describes to Cassie the hardships of slavery and the joys of freedom.

Ringgold, Faith. Tar Beach. Illustrated by author. Crown, 1991.

Eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot, enjoys family picnics on the rooftop of her Harlem apartment building--tar beach. She imagines she can fly over the city and right all the wrongs she spots on the way. The book is based on a story quilt which hangs in the Guggenheim Museum.

Wakeland, Marcia. The Big Fish. Illustrated by Alexander Sagan. Misty Mountain Press, 1993.

Lena is disappointed when she cannot achieve her dream of catching a huge Alaskan king salmon. Her elder guides her to a magic river where she hooks the Big Fish; however it pulls her underwater where she learns several lessons.

Picture Books

Bunting, Eve. Smoky Night. Illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt, 1994.
During the 1992 Los Angeles riots, an African-American woman and a Korean-American woman become better acquainted after a firefighter finds their cats under the stairs of the burning building. When the cats proceed to drink from the same dish, the African-American boy wisely observes that the animals might not have liked each other previously because they didn't know each other! Diaz's bold, energetic paintings earned a Caldecott Medal for the book.

Bunting, Eve. The Wall. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Clarion, 1990.
Visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., a Hispanic-American boy and his father find the name of the the boy's grandfather--George Munoz. The father makes a special record of the name while the boy observes the visitors and mementos there. The two leave behind a token of remembrance.

Cummings, Pat. Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon. Illustrated by author. Bradbury, 1991.
Although it is cartoon time on Saturday morning, Harvey's mother insists that he clean his room! Harvey does not think it is messy but the rhyming text and the illustrations tell otherwise. This particular household is African-American but the situation is familiar and humorous.

Franklin, Kristine. The Shepherd Boy. Illustrated by Jill Kastner. Atheneum, 1994.
Ben is a Navajo boy who who tends his family's sheep during the summer. Each day he and his dogs lead the 50 sheep on a long journey to find green grass. Each evening they return and Ben counts the sheep. One evening however only 49 sheep return and Ben with his dogs race back to rescue the lost lamb before the coyotes come. The story is told in poetic rhythms and the impressionistic oil paintings reveal the beauty of the American Southwest.

Guback, Georgia. Luka's Quilt. Illustrated by author. Greenwillow/ Morrow,1994.

Luka and her grandmother("Tutu" in Hawaiian) spend all day together as Luka's parents work. When Tutu presents Luka with a traditional Hawaiian two-color quilt, the girl is very disappointed as she had expected a colorful garden quilt. The two are unhappy until they make a colorful quilted lei which can be placed on top of the green-and-white quilt when desired. Complex emotions of a close family relationship are explored.

Heide, Florence & Gilliland, Judith. The Day of Ahmed's Secret. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Lothrop, 1990.

Through the city of Cairo a young boy roams, delivering fuel to customers and pleased to be able to help his family. Through his eyes the reader sees life in a major Middle Eastern city, due primarily to Lewin's detailed illustrations. Ahmed has a secret--which, however, will not be revealed here.

Hoffman, Mary. Boundless Grace. Illustrated by Caroline Binch. Dial/ Penguin, 1995.

Accompanied by her grandmother, Grace(whose parents are divorced) travels to Africa to visit her father. He has remarried and now has two other children. Grace becomes acquainted with Gambia and begins to realize that families may live happily ever after, "though not all in the same place".

Ichikawa, Satomi. Nora's Duck. Illustrated by author. Philomel, 1991.

Nora finds an injured duckling and takes it to Dr. John for help. At his farm the Japanese girl finds a menagerie of animals that he is caring for and she learns many facts about them. Watercolor illustrations permeate the story.

Isadora, Rachel. Over the Green Hills. Illustrated by author. Greenwillow, 1992.

The book is set in the Transkei of South Africa. Zolani, his mother, and baby sister take a walk to visit the children's grandmother in another village. Through bold watercolors, we see the countryside as well as the lifestyle of the inhabitants of this independent black state.

Jones, Rebecca. Matthew and Tilly. Illustrated by Beth Peck. Dutton, 1991.

In an inner-city neighborhood Matthew and Tilly are best friends and find many things to do. That one child is white and the other African American is unimportant to the story. The impressionistic paintings are somber and appropriate to the setting.

Pinkney, Brian. JoJo's Flying Side Kick. Illustrated by author. Simon, 1995.

JoJo is ready for the final test for her promotion to a yellow belt in the ancient Korean martial art form known as Tae Kwon Do. One night she cannot sleep for fear of the test and of the bandit tree in front of her house. However, she triumphs over both fears when she breaks a board with a flying side kick. Pinkney's scratchboard-and-oil illustrations help sustain the mood and tension.

Polacco, Patricia. Mrs. Katz and Tush. Illustrated by author. Bantam, 1992.

An African-American boy convinces a lonely Jewish widowed neighbor to adopt a scrawny, unwanted kitten. As the kitten grows, so does the friendship between Larnel and Mrs. Katz. Finally she invites him to celebrate a Passover Seder with her. The illustrations complement the story and describe the setting clearly.

Poetry

Bruchac, Joseph (Reteller). The Earth Under Sky Bear's Feet . Philomel/ Putnam, 1995.

Twelve short story-poems about nighttime phenomena as observed by Sky Bear(or Big Dipper)and representing various Native-American cultures. They provide an imaginative introduction to American Indian folklore.

Bruchac, Joseph & London, Jonathan. Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons. Illustrated by Thomas Locker. Philomel, 1992.

The scales of the turtle's shell have been used by many North American Indian tribes to represent the "months" of the year. This anthology of the native beliefs of the Sioux, Lakota, Cherokee, and other tribes consists of seasonal poems. Locker's oil paintings accompany each "moon".

Bryan, Ashley. Sing to the Sun. Illustrated by author. HarperCollins, 1992.

Twenty-three poems that celebrate life on a sunny Caribbean island. Bryan's kaleidoscopic artwork adds to the emotions evoked by the poetry.

Cassedy, Sylvia & Suetake, Kunihiro, selectors and translators. Red Dragonfly on My Shoulder. Illustrated by Molly Bang. HarperCollins, 1992.

Classic haiku has been translated in a non-literal fashion. This dramatic book has been turned to the side to open for an elongated image. Stunning collages promote the beauty of the book and its contents. .

Greenfield, Eloise. Night on Neighborhood Street. Illustrated by Jan Spivey. Dial,1991.

Seventeen poems describe life in an urban African American community with a focus on the family. Watercolor illustrations contribute to the poetry which addresses contemporary children in any neighborhood.

Johnston, Tony. My Mexico— Mexico mío. Illustrated by F. John Sierra. Putnam, 1996.

Eighteen short poems are presented in English and Spanish in a compatible blending of pictures and words. A brief glossary serves as a useful pronunciation guide.

Jones, Hettie, ed. The Trees Stand Shining. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. Dial, 1993.

A collection of North American Indian poems which are meant to be sung. Parker's paintings make use of an impressionistic style, and observe the experiences of many tribes.

Lauture, Denise. Father and Son. Illustrated by Jonathan Green. Philomel, 1993.

This touching poem illustrates a harmonious relationship between an African-American father and son who enjoy walking together. Green is Gullah and has set the oil paintings of the poem in South Carolina, thereby incorporating his own culture.

Mado, Michio. The Animals. Decorations by Mitsumasa Anno. Translated by The Empress Michiko of Japan. McElderry, 1992.

Each of the contemporary poems of Mado is presented with the Japanese version on the left page and the English on the right. The book is elegant with a cut-paper border found at the bottom of each page.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. Red Dog Blue Fly. Pictures by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Viking, 1991.

This poetry collection is told in the voice of a young African American boy and describes his experiences during the football season.

Thomas, Joyce Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins, 1993.

Using the voice of one African-American child, the author offers a collection of poems filled with beauty, pain, joy, and passion. Cooper has caught the essence of the poems in his luminous illustrations.

Thomas, Joyce Gingerbread Days. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Harper Collins, 1995.

Twelve poems--one for each month of the year--are told from the perspective of a young African-American boy. They celebrate a special heritage and life as well as universal family relationships. The poetry is made even stronger by Cooper's golden illustrations.